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HELMER DEMANDS CONCERTED EFFORT, FAIR SHARES IN REFUGEE AID. Addressing the Geneva Office of the UN Refugee Fund (UNREF) in executive session, the Austrian Minister of the Interior, Oskar Helmer, declared that the refugee problem was imposing an excessive burden on the country. Apart from private donations not included in the official report, Austria had spent about four million dollars on refugee camps and an equal amount for food and emergency aid. While expressing the Austrian Government's appreciation of the fact that 100,000 refugees have already found a haven abroad, Mr. Helmer warned that a challenging task still lies ahead. American immigration laws, among other things, are compounding an already difficult situation. For instance, the provision that only refugees in Austria are eligible for emigration to the U.S., originally designed to relieve the situation where it was most difficult, has actually had an adverse effect. Many refugees are reluctant to leave Austria because they are afraid to forfeit their chance to emigrate to the U.S., and other European countries hesitate to admit refugees who might sooner or later become a frustrated lot of malcontents. "We must therefore direct an urgent appeal to the American Government and to the American Congress to allow Hungarian refugees from other countries besides Austria to emigrate to the United States," Mr. Helmer said, "Austria has done her share, and more than her share, and will go on doing so. The refugee problem still defies solution, however, and one must no longer expect Austria, to carry an excessive burden indefinitely merely because she happens to be closest

(Continued on page 4)

CHIEF AUSTRIAN UN DELEGATE SUBMITS MEMORANDUM ON HUNGARIAN REFUGEES. An Austrian memorandum recently submitted to the United Nations by Ambassador Matsch dealt with charges by the Kadar government which had found much to criticize in Austria's treatment of Hungarian refugees. The memorandum covered virtually the same ground as Chancellor Raab's radio address on the same subject (also reported in this issue). In its concluding passages, astonishment is voiced "that it should be none other than the Hungarian government, which has repeatedly refused to recognize the authority of the United Nations in recent months, (which) now directs itself an appeal to this forum." Reference is also made to the fact that Austrian efforts to shelter, feed and care for 170,000 Hungarian citizens, which might have been expected to elicit an expression of thanks from the Hungarian authorities, have brought forth nothing but complaints from that quarter.

AUSTRIA PROTESTS AGAINST BORDER VIOLATION; REINFORCES FRONTIER POSTS. In a meeting of the Austrian Cabinet on January 22, Chancellor Julius Raab reported on the incident which took place on the Austrian-Hungarian border on the afternoon of January 20. About 30 Hungarian soldiers had crossed the Austrian border and, while on Austrian soil, had fired a number of shots at a group of refugees also on Austrian soil. All except one of the refugees were forced back to Hungarian territory. The Cabinet decided to lodge a vigorous protest with the Hungarian Government over this border violation.

The Minister of the Interior informed the Cabinet that, independently of this incident, the gendarmerie posts along the border had been substantially reinforced, in order to ensure better protection of the frontier and more intensive supervision.

CABINET CALLS ON WESTERN NATIONS TO ADOPT QUOTA SYSTEM FOR REFUGEES. At the same Cabinet session, the Chancellor also reported on a number of problems connected with the refugee issue. The Cabinet voted in favor of allowing transit through Austria to Hungarians willing to be repatriated, provided that such refugees had really expressed a desire to return to Hungary and that there was a guarantee that they would be accepted by Hungary.

Since the number of refugees in Austria even now exceeds Austria's resources, the Cabinet decided to request -- in cooperation with the International Refugee Organization -- that percentual quotas be set up for the admission of Hungarian refugees by individual countries.

RAAB ON REFUGEES: AUSTRIA HAS DONE HER DUTY.

Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab dealt with the Hungarian refugee problem in a recent radio address, in which he declared that giving aid to people who sought refuge on her territory was a matter of deep concern to Austria. He emphasized the impossibility of remaining indifferent when, a few hundred yards from the Austrian frontier, people were shot while taking flight and when the wounded summon up their remaining strength in an effort to reach Austrian soil. The number of persons who have sought refuge in Austria is nearing the 170,000 mark: approximately 100,000 of these have been admitted by other countries, so that 70,000 are still living in Austria.

Few have returned; Hungary obstructing repatriation procedure

Only a small number of the refugees have returned to Hungary. The Chancellor said that 1,626 from Austria, 22

from Switzerland and 125 from France were known to have returned voluntarily, having been processed through the Hungarian Legation. In addition to these, there may be some who have crossed the border on their own. The number of persons in the returnee category cannot be determined, but in no event can it involve the figure of 10,000, as claimed by Hungarian propaganda.

At the present time, there are some 250 persons in a German camp who wish to return to Hungary. The reason that such repatriation has not been effected thus far is that the Hungarian authorities are requiring a review of each individual case on the basis of a list and are refusing to accept them at the border beforehand. The reason is not, as has been claimed, that the Austrian authorities are not allowing transit.

The Chancellor said that Austria was placing no obstacles in the way of people who wanted to return to their native country; he stated, as did the Foreign Minister at an earlier occasion, that Austria merely requires such persons to sign a declaration to the effect that they are returning voluntarily and not under compulsion. Thus far, 1,773 persons have chosen this course, a fact which was sufficient evidence that Austria was not placing any difficulties in their way. Herr Raab declared that it was therefore unnecessary to go into accusations which had been leveled against Austria for a calculated purpose. He said that simple reflection would surely make it obvious that people who had reached a decision to abandon their native country and to face the dangers of flight would not come to Austria for the purpose of turning around and returning home a few days later. Raab called it "incredible," that within the previous four days (January 16-19 - Ed.) 1,261 refugees had come to Austria, in spite of the onset of severe winter weather. Pointing out that they had not been intimidated by the cold weather or the difficulties which had been compounded by heavy snowfalls, he asked whether there could be more convincing proof that these people had been motivated by fear, and by a hope of finding refuge and asylum. He added that many persons had frozen to death or had suffered severe frostbite in making these superhuman efforts.

U.N. - Role in Repatriation

Reporting that the Hungarian Government had asked Austria to allow a repatriation commission to get in touch with the refugees, the Chancellor said that the matter had been discussed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs who, by the terms of United Nations resolutions, has jurisdiction in matters of repatriation. He added that, with the concurrence of the Commissioner, the Hungarian envoy in Vienna had been informed a few days before as to the conditions under which operations could be carried out in Austria by a committee under the chairmanship of the Ministry of the Interior, which would deal with the voluntary repatriation of Hungarian refugees who expressed a desire to return home. The conditions would be the same as those which applied to similar commissions in the past: *Contact with the refugees would be authorized only in the presence of a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.*

The Chancellor expressed the conviction that Austria's stand in the refugee problem had been correct, and indeed unassailable, in every respect: not only had she given help in application of the Golden Rule but had also adopted a proper attitude toward all other states, as dictated by her obligations as a neutral nation. He also expressed the view that it was the duty of every member of the United Nations to give support, not only by deeds but also by friendly counsel, to another country which happened to be in a difficult situation.

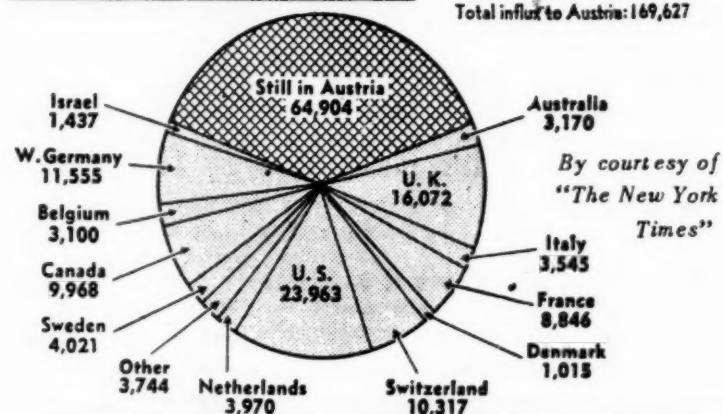
Raab turned next to the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly on December 10, 1948. At the time, the Declaration was adopted by 48 votes, with no nation voting against it. Eight states, most of which were members of the Eastern Bloc, had abstained. Yet by abstaining, even these countries had shown that they were not opposed to the Declaration of Human Rights. Article 3 of the Declaration states that every person has a right to life, freedom and security of his person. Article 13 contains a provision which is of particular interest at the present time in connection with the stream of refugees from Hungary. The article in question reads: "1. Every one has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state; 2. Every one has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

Chancellor Raab declared that any limitation on freedom of movement was therefore a clear violation of human rights. He added, however, that a natural corollary of the freedom of movement specifically enacted in this Declaration was the duty of all States to accept persons seeking protection from persecution. He added that Austria was adhering strictly to this principle.

WHERE HUNGARIANS HAVE GONE

As of Jan. 31, 1957.

Total influx to Austria: 169,627



In conclusion, the Chancellor dealt with the proposal which has been made in various quarters that Hungary should also be granted a kind of neutral status. *He expressed the view that the country borders directly on neutral Austria and some form of neutrality would surely be welcomed by the Hungarian people. He added that the formation of a neutral state on each side of the demarcation line between East and West would certainly result in a general easing of tension in Central Europe, the more so since under such an arrangement no nation would have to feel that its security was threatened.* Chancellor Raab declared that "the time for seeking a permanent and peaceful solution has arrived."

TWENTY MILLION SCHILLINGS IN PRIVATE DONATIONS FOR REFUGEES.

The Financial Committee set up by the Austrian Government to collect funds for the benefit of Hungarian refugees reports that to date nearly 20 million schillings (\$175,000) has been collected in private donations. The collection of further donations of large proportions is not to be expected. The Committee has called the Government's attention to this fact and has emphasized the need for the Government to make arrangements with other countries for speedy and appropriate provision of the means necessary for sheltering and caring for the refugees. Funds must also be made available from abroad for transporting them to other countries for resettlement. In a statement issued by the Committee it was stressed that Austria, which as a neighbor of unfortunate Hungary was obliged to give -- and glad to give -- emergency assistance, expects the outside world, which enjoys far greater material advantages than does Austria, to show generosity and dispatch in helping the refugees, the more so as they are unable to help the Hungarians remaining in Hungary.

NON-STOP NEW YORK-VIENNA FLIGHT IN 11 HOURS 36 MINUTES.

Carrying 15,450 lbs. of foodstuffs, clothing, and blankets donated for Hungarian relief by the Hilton Hotel in New York, a Pan American DC-7C arrived in Vienna's Schwechat airport on Sunday, January 28, at 9:06 P.M. The plane, which left New York at 3:30 A.M. local time, flew non-stop routed over Nantucket, London, Brussels, and Frankfurt at an altitude of almost 26,000 ft. and reached Vienna on schedule. It travelled at an average speed of 400 m.p.h., thus setting the first record for a direct connection between New York and Vienna. The Pilot Captain Warren Beall, co-pilot Priest and navigator Killgore reported that the flight was a purely routine one and that when the plane arrived in Vienna it still had enough fuel to continue on to Istanbul.

AUSTRIAN U.N. - REPRESENTATIVE STATES VIEWS ON DISARMAMENT. According to Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian representative who addressed a recent session of the First Committee, agreement between the big powers is the key to a solution of the disarmament problem. Mr. Waldheim said:

"Austria is well aware of the fact that a solution of this complex question depends primarily on the great powers... Austria is the only country which, in an international treaty, has accepted an obligation with regard to its armaments corresponding to a level envisaged as an ultimate ceiling in the disarmament proposals of the Western Powers as well as the Soviet Union.

"According to the provisions of article 13 of the Austrian State Treaty of 15 May 1955, Austria has agreed not to possess, construct or experiment with: (a) any atomic weapon; (b) any other major weapon adaptable now or in the future to mass destruction and defined as such by the United Nations; (c) any self-propelled or guided missile or torpedo, or apparatus connected with its discharge or control; (d) sea mines; (e) torpedoes capable of being manned; (f) submarines or other submersible craft; (g) motor torpedo boats; (h) specialized types of assault craft; (i) guns with a range of more than 30 kilometers; furthermore, asphyxiating or

poisonous materials or biological substances of all types in quantities greater than are required for legitimate civil purposes, or any apparatus designed to produce, project or spread such materials or substances for war purposes.

"Austria would be prepared to accept a system of controls established by the United Nations, provided that such a system also includes other states. In the opinion of the Government of Austria, any kind of agreement between the great Powers in the field of disarmament would have a great moral effect upon the international situation, even if it should only offer a partial solution in the beginning, as, for instance, a limitation in the armaments race or partial control measures. We therefore believe that the United Nations should take the first concrete step in this direction as soon as possible. It seems as if now, for the first time after ten years of deliberations on this extremely complicated problem, a certain rapprochement of the views of the great powers had become noticeable. As can be seen from the disarmament discussions held in the past, the great powers are in agreement with regard to the ultimate aims. However, differences of opinion exist concerning the method of reaching these goals. Therefore the realization of these aims seems to be feasible only step by step.

"As for tests of weapons of mass destruction, Austria is inclined to believe that such tests should be completely prohibited. This measure is contemplated both in the Soviet disarmament plan of 17 November 1956 and in the United States proposals submitted to this Committee on 14 January 1957. A first step in this direction seems now feasible.

"The use of atomic energy holds such vast promises for the future that the intention of the great powers to use atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes should be realized as soon as possible. All the peoples of the world want peace. As a small, neutral country, Austria appeals to all States, especially to the powers directly involved, to undertake all possible steps in order to safeguard and strengthen the peace of the world.

AUSTRIA JOINS MULTILATERAL ARBITRAGE SCHEME.

Austria has recently joined the multilateral foreign exchange system which is operated by a number of EPU countries. Austrian authorized banks have been permitted, as of January 2, 1957, to conclude spot transactions and forward transactions for up to six months involving the Austrian schilling and ten other European currencies, viz., those of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. For dealings in French francs or with banks in France, forward transactions are limited to three months.

Official buying and selling rates $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent on either side of parity, which constitute the lower and upper limits for spot transactions, have been published by the Austrian National Bank in agreement with the central banks of other countries concerned. In London for the first time since before the war, official dealings in Austrian schillings began on January 2.

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PREPARATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY IN VIENNA. Another item on the Cabinet's agenda was a report of the Foreign Ministry on the present status of negotiations on the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) in Vienna. The preparatory commission in New York which is dealing with the organization of the IAEA is now to enter into negotiations with the Austrian Government and draft a comprehensive report on all problems relating to the official headquarters of the organization. The report will be submitted to the first general conference of the IAEA which, taking account of the recommendation of the conference on statutes, will then adopt a formal resolution concerning official headquarters.

The preparatory commission has appointed a sub-committee to deal with the question of an official headquarters. Following the assumption of office by the executive secretary, the sub-committee will hold a meeting in New York -- which will be attended by an Austrian representative -- to discuss the relevant problems. Thereafter, the preparatory commission will send representatives to Vienna to negotiate with the Austrian Government.

Austria has invited the preparatory commission of the IAEA to hold its first general conference in Vienna. In view of the importance of this meeting, Parliament -- in response to a request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs -- has resolved to making the Parliament building available for the general conference.

Helmer on Refugee Aid (Continued from page 1)

to the source of the present emergency. The fate of tens of thousands of Hungarian refugees is still undecided. This is a matter of vital concern to the Free World, which is in duty bound to extend a helping hand to the victims of terror and oppression." Public opinion in some countries does not seem to realize, Mr. Helmer said that Austria has to care for a number of refugees amounting to one percent of her total population; "there is a widespread inclination to accept this state of affairs as an accomplished fact. Let no one think that we consider closing our borders to refugees. We hold ourselves not merely bound by international law, but morally obligated to grant the right of asylum to anyone who should ask for it. To give temporary shelter to refugees is one thing; to integrate them permanently is another, however. Our capacity to do so is rather limited, as everyone knows. Assuming that Austria, a nation of seven million, will provide a home for 20,000 refugees; what, then, would other countries have to do in proportion to their population alone -- without considering their area and their resources? The United States, for instance, would have to take half a million refugees instead of the approximately 20,000 so far admitted. European countries with a population of 40 or 50 million would have to accept between 120,000 and 150,000. How many did they take in? So far, none of them more than 15,000... "To be quite frank," Mr. Helmer said, "Austria is fed to the teeth with having to beg and to haggle for every single dollar and for the acceptance of every single refugee. We will also no longer tolerate taking back a refugee who has already been accepted by another country. The only reason we will accept as valid for returning a refugee to Austria is a desire for

repatriation expressed by the refugee himself. There is every reason to assume that the number of refugees in Austria will remain constant at about 65,000 for some time. This would mean a daily expense of 80,000 dollars. Private donations in Austria have so far netted about 5 million dollars. If every country in the free world could make a contribution of similar proportions, there would be little to worry about."

Austria, Mr. Helmer concluded, is no newcomer in the field of refugee care. "Hundreds of thousands have passed through this country in the past decade. To add the 65,000 refugees who arrived recently to the 180,000 who have been in Austria for some time is to arrive at a total of 250,000 now being cared for, or having been absorbed by our small country alone."

ONE MILLION SCHILLINGS A DAY FOR REFUGEES. "The view is often expressed in other countries that Austria is being given sufficient assistance in the Hungarian refugee problem when funds are placed at her disposal. However, the problem is basically a political one and, in a period of weak economic activity, could develop into a sociological problem of the first order. For these reasons, the most effective help other countries can render is to welcome Hungarian refugees to their own shores." These remarks were made recently by Undersecretary of State Grubhofer in characterizing Austria's attitude toward the refugee question. He indicated that Austria was prepared to continue her assistance but that she was not in a position to maintain large refugee camps over a long period just because Austria is the only free country bordering on Hungary. Grubhofer said that the absorption of approximately 100,000 of the refugees by other countries was a remarkable achievement but pointed with regret to the fact that there had been a slowing down in the rate at which they were being admitted. As a result, there was a permanent level of approximately 70,000 refugees for whom Austria had to care. Of this number, the International League of Red Cross Associations was taking care of 28,000. The latter figure is to be raised to 45,000; in order to arrive at this figure, the refugees presently quartered in private lodgings are to be brought together in camps.

At a minimum expenditure of at least 22.50 schillings per refugee, Austria is spending nearly one million schillings a day for their upkeep. This figure does not include the expenditure involved in camp maintenance.

AUSTRIAN WRITERS PROTEST TO KADAR. The Austrian Writers' Association sent the following telegram to the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior in Budapest:

"In the name of the freedom of the human spirit and of human rights, the Austrian Writers' Association protests against the arrest of Hungarian writers and journalists. These people did nothing but listen to the voice of their conscience and, acting out of love for their native country, they lifted their voices in warnings and pleas. Do not make martyrs of them but restore the freedom of those arrested immediately."

ADULT EDUCATION MAKING HEADWAY. The progress of Austrian adult education is reflected in statistics which show that at present 125,099 persons are participating in 7,010 courses at 223 adult education schools. A total of 1,456,488 persons attended 10,209 separate classes or events.

SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 17. Fifty years ago, on January 26, 1907, Imperial sanction was given to three draft laws concerning universal, equal, secret and direct suffrage. These election-reform laws went into effect on March 16, 1907. The first Parliament to be elected on the basis of universal suffrage held its constituent meeting on June 17, 1907.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of this important event in the history of Austrian democracy, Parliament will hold a special meeting on June 17, 1957. (The same event was commemorated by Parliament ten years ago as a milestone in the parliamentary history of Austria.)

LOWEST WINE HARVEST SINCE 1945. Preliminary statistics on the 1956 wine harvest show a production of one million gallons of new wine, i.e. 123 gallons per acre. This is the lowest wine harvest since the end of the war. In fact, this year's crop is only 34 per cent, or about one-third, of the normal yield.

AUSTRIAN COAL PRODUCTION BOOSTED; IMPORTS LAGGING. Coal production in Austria during 1956 totalled 6,894,675 tons, a figure which exceeds the 1955 total by 104,772 tons and which is nearly twice the average output for the years preceding 1938. In 1956, a total of 12.3 million tons of solid mineral fuels (8.4 million tons, coal basis) were supplied domestically and from abroad, as compared with 12 million tons (8.3 million tons, coal basis) in 1955. These figures mean that the planned supply of 12.6 million tons (8.6 million tons, coal basis) was not fully met. This shortfall is attributable primarily to the absence of shipments from Poland, Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia, which has not been completely offset by mounting imports from the West (the supply of coal from the U.S. rose from .63 million tons to roughly 2 million tons in the passed year.)

Austria's over-all trade relations with the European Coal and Steel community are as follows:

AUSTRIA FAVORS EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA. In a report to the Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister Figl stressed the importance of a European Free Trade Area for the Austrian economy, especially with a view to the fact that the countries immediately concerned with the project -- those belonging to the OEEC -- normally account for two thirds of the volume of Austria's foreign trade. For this, if for no other reason, Mr. Figl held, it would seem hardly reasonable to exclude Austria from a customs agreement designed to put Austrian industry on an equal footing as a competitor in an area comprising 250 million people. On the basis of the Foreign Minister's report, the Cabinet decided to subscribe to the principles of the European Free Trade Area. A statement outlining Austria's conditions for formal entry into the agreement will be issued at a later date.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN TRADE IN 1956

(In billions of schillings; 26 schillings to the dollar)

	Total			
	Nov. 1956	Dec. 1956	1955	1956
IMPORTS	2.29	2.22	23.07	25.32
EXPORTS	1.94	2.01	18.17	22.07
Deficit	0.35	0.21	4.90	3.25

FORESTATION PROGRAM PUSHED. Austria's forestry authorities are attempting to eliminate shortcomings in the country's afforestation program by intensifying the cultivation of young trees. Austria currently requires 125 million such plantings annually. Of this amount, 100 million are already raised domestically. In no more than two years, Austria will be able to cover her own requirements in full by domestic cultivation. Fifty million plants are raised annually in State-owned botanical gardens and the remainder in various other gardens. The afforestation program is making satisfactory progress: not only are current requirements being fulfilled but arrears from previous years are also being wiped out.

Products	November 1956			October 1956			November 1955		
	Amount in 1,000 tons	Value in		Amount in 1,000 tons	Value in		Amount in 1,000 tons	Value in	
		Mil- lion Sch.	%*		Mil- lion Sch.	%*		Mil- lion Sch.	%*
Imports from the European Coal and Steel Community, including:	305	1.148	50	373	1.231	51	322	1.117	51
Coal, coke & briquettes	130	76	29	155	89	35	153	81	29
Iron ores and scrap	30	14	26	34	18	24	22	5	12
Iron and steel	7	45	62	8	48	60	7	35	58
Exports to the European Coal and Steel Community, including:	371	1,005	52	367	1,027	50	310	789	48
Coal, coke and briquettes	4	1	100	5	1	100	5	1	100
Iron ores and scrap	0	0	13	0	0	6	0	0	47
Iron and steel	59	172	48	50	158	43	30	98	44

*) Percentage of the total import or export of the products listed.

RECORD YEAR IN TOURIST ACTIVITY; AUSTRIA TOPS SWITZERLAND. The Austrian tourist industry registered the record figure of 28.6 million overnight accommodations during the 1955-56 season. This figure is 42 per cent higher than that for 1936-37 and, for the first time, the proportion of foreign tourists exceeded that of domestic tourists. Since daily spending by foreigners is, on the average, twice as high as that of Austrian tourists, foreign tourist activity is estimated to account for 65 per cent of the turnover in this field of the economy.

Foreigners accounted for 14.9 million overnight accommodations, or 77 per cent more than in 1931-32, the best pre-war season, and 133 per cent more than in 1936-37. Even Switzerland's traditionally high figures were exceeded by 23 per cent.

Broken down in terms of regions, the rate of increase was higher in the eastern Laender than those of the west. Nevertheless, the figures for the eastern part of the country are still only 63 per cent of the pre-war levels, whereas those for the Western Laender exceed the pre-war levels by 78 per cent. One weak element in the Austrian tourist picture is the concentration of tourists in a few centers. In the summer of 1955, 60 per cent of the overnight accommodations were accounted for by only 55 localities, and in the winter by only 12 localities. Geographical factors are only partly responsible for this phenomenon. Travellers now have a tendency to avoid the main stream, but the inadequate equipment of some of the hotel facilities represents an obstacle that has yet to be overcome.

WINTER TOURIST SEASON IN FULL SWING. In a matter of a few days, passengers from 130 special trains from France, Western Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands will pour on to station platforms at Austria's winter sports resorts.

In the area of St. Anton alone, some 6,000 persons used the local ski tows and cable railways every day during the Christmas holidays and 80 ski instructors were of necessity compelled to work overtime to keep up with the demand for their services. The Childrens' Skiing School at St. Anton, the famous Arlberg resort, at times had no fewer than 270 young students.

With a total of 328 ski tows, 45 cable railways, 10 mountain railways and 8 sled lifts, as well as one vertical lift, Austria, the country where the cable-railway construction was originated, is out front among European winter-sports nations in point of physical accessibility of skiing areas. These statistics have been made available by the press office of the organization for tourist-trade publicity. Tyrol stands first among the Austrian Laender in Equipment of this kind, having 70 tows, 17 cable railways, 3 mountain railways, 29 chair tows and 6 sled lifts. In the Arlberg area there are practically no more skiing slopes left which are inaccessible to some kind of mechanical transportation.

FOREIGN TOURIST FAIR IN SALZBURG. A Foreign Tourist Fair, with the slogan "Hospitable Austria," will be held in Salzburg from May 25 to June 10, 1957.

MOUNTING PROCEEDS FROM TOURIST TRADE. Last year, Austria earned approximately 3 billion schillings (about 115 million dollars) in foreign currency from its tourist trade. This means that the tourist trade, which constitutes an indirect export, occupies the same high level as some of the leading direct exports, such as the products of the wood-processing and the iron and steel industries.

Although the Austrians show no small interest in travel abroad themselves, net foreign-exchange receipts from the tourist trade are quite considerable even after deduction of foreign-exchange disbursements. The 1956 surplus of foreign-exchange receipts over disbursements was about 2.5 billion schillings, i.e., roughly 100 million dollars.

VIENNA YOUTH HOSTEL WELCOMES ITS 100,000th VISITOR. The Vienna Youth Hostel at Poetzleinsdorf recently welcomed its 100,000th visitor - a young girl from faraway Australia. In a small ceremony to mark the occasion, Commissioner Hans Mandl handed the city's honored guest a picture book of Vienna and a Augarten-porcelain horse as a token of Vienna's regard for its young visitors.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS INCREASE BY 1.1 BILLION SCHILLINGS. During 1956, the increase in Austrian savings bank deposits amounted to 974 million schillings, to which must be added approximately 140 million schillings in capitalized interest; thus, the total increase in deposits was 1.1 billion schillings. (The total increase for 1955 was also 1.1 billion.) As of the end of 1956, total savings deposits amounted to 5,425 million schillings (one dollar equals approximately 25 schillings - Ed.).

Up to August 1956, the increase in savings deposits was appreciably higher than in 1955. In September 1956, the increase in deposits was 79 million schillings as compared with 131 million in August. During October, foreign-policy factors began to exert their effect. During that month the increase in deposits was only 21 million schillings, as compared with 83 million in October 1955 and 97 million in October 1954. The increasingly serious situations in Hungary and the Near East resulted - in November 1956 -- in the first decrease in savings deposits, in the amount of 73 million schillings. (In November 1955 there had been an increase of 37 million; in November 1954, an increase by as much as 100 million.) The downward trend continued until mid-December 1956. It was not until the second half of December, when the foreign-policy situation had become stabilized, that a sudden change took place in the pattern of savings deposits. During this period there was an increase by 84 million, so that the December figures reflected only those decreases due to annual withdrawals. January developments to date have shown a continuing consolidation of the savings trend.

The transfer-account business of the savings banks, which showed a level of 2,728 million schillings as of the end of 1956, registered a turnover in the amount of 78 million schillings during the year, an increase of about 10 per cent over 1955. The general level remained unchanged.

INTENSIVE DEEP-WELL DRILLING: STEADY INCREASE IN RATIO OF DRILLING OUTPUT TO TONS OF OIL PRODUCED.

In recent months the Austrian petroleum industry has greatly stepped up the rate of its deep-well drilling. During the first half of 1956, this type of drilling accounted on the average, for 14 per cent of the total number of meters drilled. In October this proportion rose to 17.1 per cent and in November to 27 per cent. This represents a higher rate of deep-well drilling than that practiced in the German Federal Republic, where the rate is about 25 per cent.

Since last May, the total drilling figure (including production and deep-well drilling) for all Austria has maintained a fairly constant level of 22,000 meters per month.

In 1955, only 5.2 cm. of drilling were required for every ton of oil produced, as against 20-25 cm. in the German Federal Republic and approximately 20 cm. in the United States. Last year, however, the number of drilling centimeters per ton of oil produced rose steadily, reaching 8.2 cm. in October 1956.

AUSTRIA HAS FAVORABLE SOIL BALANCE. Between 1950 and 1956, a total of approximately 58,000 acres of soil were reclaimed under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's cultivation program. The reclamation of new cultivable areas has now reached such proportions that annual losses of land and ground resulting from new communication arteries and from the extension of housing construction have now been offset.

As further progress is made in drainage and cultivation activity, the number of large-scale projects is becoming progressively smaller and that of single, small-scale projects is becoming increasingly important. This accounts for the fact that such a high total of cultivation projects — amounting to between 3,500 and 4,000 annually — can be undertaken.

37,000 CIVIC LEADERS BRIGHTEN THE SOCIAL PICTURE.

Statistics for 1956 show that there were no fewer than 36,928 associations in Austria during that year, a figure representing an increase by 2,200 over 1955. Thus not even counting the deputy presidents and vice-presidents, nearly 37,000 Austrians are entitled to use the designation "president."

Although Vienna has the largest population of all the Laender, it is Lower Austria which stands first in this respect, having a total of 10,102 organizations of persons united by common interests. Vienna comes second, with 9,093 associations. The section of the country with the strongest propensity for organizational life is tiny Vorarlberg which has 1,444 associations for a population of only 194,000 i.e. one organization for every 138 persons. Styria appears to show the least enthusiasm in this direction for, although it is the third largest Land, it has only 4,225 associations, or one to every 264 inhabitants.

The savings associations (which save together and spend together - Ed.) are concentrated in Vienna and Lower Austria. The last-named province also has by far the largest number of associations devoted to gardening, plot cultivation, housing settlements and animal breeding, i.e. 1,186 out of a total of 4,621. Upper Austria has the greatest number of charitable and welfare associations. The smallest groups are the Masonic lodges and the Jewish societies. Of the 30

registered lodges, 11 are in Vienna, 11 in Carinthia, 5 in Upper Austria, one in Styria and 2 in Salzburg. There are 28 Jewish associations in Vienna and 9 others distributed throughout the rest of the country.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HYGIENE IN SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES.

The World Federation for Mental Hygiene has made the necessary arrangements to enable three working teams of psychiatrists and welfare workers to set up long-term clinics for psychiatric services in the refugee camps in Austria. According to Professor Hans Hoff, head of the Vienna Psychiatric Clinic this step represents a much-needed form of assistance. He pointed out that nowhere is psychiatric care more urgently required than in a refugee camp during periods of inevitable disillusionment. Each of the teams will include one Hungarian-speaking member.

During November, when the first wave of refugees were entering Austria, thirty-nine Hungarian patients were treated at the Vienna Psychiatric Clinic. In December, the number rose to seventy-two and the figure for January will be well over one hundred. The increase during recent weeks is not attributable to the increase in the number of refugees, because transportation to other countries has been going on simultaneously. The number of clinic patients is therefore a reflection of the tremendous emotional burden to which the refugees are exposed. There are many reasons why psychiatrists have to deal with refugees: many of them attempt suicide, some take to excess drinking and others develop acute psychoses in the wake of their experiences while fleeing and while living the life of refugees.

SALZBURG SUMMER SEMINAR TO DISCUSS "NEW CONCEPT OF WORLD AND MAN."

The 1957 Salzburg Summer Seminar (Salzburger Hochschulwochen), organized by the Salzburg University Catholic Faculty, will be devoted to the subject "The New Concept of World and Man in Science." The Seminar is scheduled to run from August 5th to the 18th. The first weeks will be concerned in the main with the philosophic aspects of the problem posed; the second week's lectures will deal with questions in the fields of biology, psychology and theology. The lecturers will include numerous noted scientists from Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

SALZBURG HONORS STEFAN ZWEIG. As a tribute to Stefan Zweig (1881 - 1942) on the 75th anniversary of his birth, the city of Salzburg has named a street for the late author who made his home there until 1938. (Zweig's house was famous for its collection of autographs.) The Salzburg Land-Theater is preparing a production of Zweig's stage adaptation of Ben Jonson's "Volpone."

"ROSENKAVALIER" IN TOKYO. The first Richard Strauss opera to be performed in Japan, "Der Rosenkavalier," was recently presented to a Tokyo audience with great success.

EDUCATION MINISTRY ESTABLISHES ERWIN SCHROEDINGER PRIZE. During 1956, in honor of the return to Vienna of University Professor Erwin Schroedinger, the Nobel Prize winner, the Austrian Ministry of Education instituted a 30,000-schilling prize (about 1200 dollars) for outstanding achievements in the field of chemistry or physics. The award, which is to be known as the "Erwin Schroedinger Prize," is to be awarded annually by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

BRUNO WALTER HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF MAHLER SOCIETY. Bruno Walter has assumed the honorary chairmanship of the Swedish Gustav Mahler Society recently founded in Stockholm on the initiative of the director of the Stockholm Royal Opera, Set Svanholm.

HILDE GUEDEN TO SING IN BUENOS AIRES. Hilde Gueden, well-known soprano of the Vienna State Opera, will make her first appearance in South America this June and July at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. She will be heard as Gilda in Verdi's "Rigoletto" and in the leading role in Donizetti's "Elisire d'Amore."

O.W. FISCHER'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN AMERICAN FILM. Otto Wilhelm Fischer, formerly of the Vienna Burgtheater, will make his debut in an American film by playing the lead in a remake of "My Man Godfrey." Production started this January under the direction of Henry Koster with June Allyson as co-star.

SCHURICHT AND CLUYTENS HONORED BY VIENNA PHILHARMONIC. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra has awarded its "Nicolai Medal" to conductors Carl Schuricht and Andre Cluytens for their contribution to the outstanding success of the orchestra's recent U.S. tour.

VIENNA EXHIBITION RECALLS LITERARY LIFE OF SIXTY YEARS AGO. Centered around the once-famed Cafe Griensteidl, where the literati of Vienna used to gather before it was pulled down sixty years ago, the Vienna Public Library has been running an exhibition during the month of January recalling Viennese intellectual life at the turn of the century. The Griensteidl "Literatencafe" was frequented by Austrian authors of the first rank, such as Hermann Bahr, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Arthur Schnitzler and Karl Kraus, whose books, pictures and documents are on display at the Library.

GREEK-AMERICAN STAGE DESIGNER INVITED TO SALZBURG. Among the artists invited to contribute to the 1957 Salzburg Festival is Andreas Nomikos, stage designer for the Royal Greek Theater in Athens who came to live in the United States last year. Mr. Nomikos, who has designed for the Houston Opera, has been asked by director Herbert Graf to design the costumes for Richard Strauss' "Elektra" which will premiere at the Felsenreitschule on August 7th under the baton of Dimitri Mitropoulos. The "Elektra" costumes may be made up of material handwoven on ancient looms in Greece if it can be arranged to ship such cloth to Salzburg.

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